College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
Memorandum

Date: April 13, 2009
To: Program Review Committee
From: Richard Rothaupt, Dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Subject: Program Director’s, Department Chair’s, and Dean’s responses to the Planning and Review Committee’s (PRC) consultant’s report for the B.S. Construction

Below are the recommendations that were made in the PRC consultant’s report for the B.S. Construction program, and responses to those recommendations from the program director, department chair, and dean.

Recommendations for the Program Director
1. Continue working with the Chair and Dean to provide enough course sections so students can complete the program in 4 years or work with program faculty and staff to reduce number of credits.
2. Work with Chair and Dean to manage course enrollment based on staffing and facilities.
3. Review current construction labs, facilities, and equipment; work with the Chair and Dean to update and enhance facilities/labs and equipment as needed. Apply for lab modernization grants as they become available.
4. Work with faculty to revise curriculum to address need for students to improve their written and oral communication skills.
5. Work with faculty to update curriculum in the program.
6. Articulate to undergraduate students the benefits of general education courses.

Responses from the Program Director
1. The construction department faculty and staff continue to work toward providing sufficient sections of classes to allow students to graduate in 4 years. Currently we offer at least two sections of every AEC course each semester, which has reduced the backlog. We will continue to monitor this closely. It is also necessary for us to work with the business and physics departments to ensure sufficient offering of their courses, which are required in the Construction Program.
2. We currently have little control over student enrollment. However, it appears that total enrollment is leveling off at around 450 students. It is the Program Director’s opinion that we have the capacity to handle this number.
3. It is the faculty’s opinion that our labs and classrooms are in excellent condition, though there are a few areas which could be enhanced. We will continue to work with the college administration to update our facilities within the current budgetary constraints.
4. The Construction Program is in the process of reviewing the curriculum for our next accreditation visit by ACCE, currently scheduled for fall 2010. We will be addressing the issue of improving written and oral communication skills as part of this process.
5. See answer to 4. above.
6. This has always been a personal goal of the Program Director, and we will continue to stress the importance of General Education.

Recommendations for the Department Chair
1. Work with PD and Dean to address concerns about numbers of sections offered and to ensure effective enrollment management and/or adequate staffing. Consider advocating for enrollment caps until faculty positions are filled.
2. Work with PD and Dean to update and enhance facilities as needed.

Responses from the Department Chair
1. We are in the process of searching for two new faculty positions for the fall of 2009, and at this stage the search looks very positive. It is the Chair’s opinion that this will significantly improve our ability to offer sufficient sections of all AEC courses.
2. Again, the faculty is always striving to provide the best and most up-to-date facilities for the construction students. We will continue to work as a team to achieve this.

Recommendations for the Dean
1. Work with PD and Chair to ensure effective enrollment management and/or adequate staffing.
2. Work with PD and Chair to update and enhance facilities as needed.

Responses from the Dean
1. The Construction program appears to have reached a plateau for enrollment of approximately 420 to 450 students. This is a workable number for our current facilities. It does require the allocation of additional faculty FTE, which has been temporarily supported by enrollment growth positions from the Provost’s Office. STEM will continue to push for permanent allocation of faculty FTE to cover the increased enrollment.
2. The College of STEM Dean will support the Construction program to make facility improvements when justified. The current facilities are in acceptable condition, with the exception of carpeting in some classrooms. The most pressing facility need is for a Construction Department office. When the department was created by the Chancellor during the recent reorganization, an office location was not specified. Currently the Construction Department is operated out of a faculty member’s office.